

The Newbery Medal-winning story of *Sarah, Plain and Tall* continues

**PATRICIA MACLACHLAN**

# Caleb's Story



# 1

"Come find me, Caleb!" called my little sister, Cassie.

She ran out the door and down the steps. Lottie barked and followed her. Nick was older than Lottie. He stayed on the porch and watched.

"I don't have time. I mean it, Cassie!"

Cassie ignored me the way she always did when she wanted something.

"And don't look!" she called.

I sighed and walked after her. I covered my



eyes with my hand, but through my fingers I could see Cassie run to the barn.

"One, two, three," I counted.

"Slower," she cried.

"Four . . . five . . . five and a half."

Papa was hitching Bess to the wagon.

"Don't be long," he said. "Anna's almost ready to leave."

"Don't worry. This won't take long, Papa."

"I don't know, Caleb. Cassie's getting better at hiding."

I laughed.

"At least you don't see her feet sticking out anymore. Six, seven, eight, nine, ten," I called.

I could hear Cassie laughing, but I couldn't see her. I walked into the barn. It was cool and dark and quiet. A winter sharp smell filled the space.

"Cassie?"

There was no answer. There was a time when Cassie would answer me and give away her hiding place—she couldn't help it. Not today.

May, my favorite of all our horses, was in her stall. I reached over and touched her nose, and she nickered at me. I could see her breath in the cold air. There was silence, the only sound the sound of May's breathing. Then I heard Lottie's bark outside, and Cassie's voice.

"Cassie? I hear you!"

I turned. Cassie tried to run by the barn door, and I rushed out and caught her, making her squeal.

"I've got you, Pal!"

Cassie laughed and we began to walk back to the house, Lottie leaping and jumping in front of us. Cassie reached up and took my hand, her face suddenly serious.



*Anna has done something terrible.  
She has given me a journal to fill.*



**I**t's your job now," Anna says as she hands Caleb her journals, asking him to continue writing the family story. But Sarah, Jacob, Anna, Caleb, and their new little sister, Cassie, have already formed a family, and Caleb fears there will be nothing left to write about. That is, before Cassie discovers a mysterious old man in the barn, and everything changes. Everyone is excited about the arrival of a new family member—except for Jacob, who holds a bitter grudge. Only the special love of Caleb, and the gift he offers, can help to mend the pain of the past.

*"This is an excellent work of historical fiction,  
a satisfying sequel, and an inspiring tale  
about love and forgiveness."*

*—School Library Journal*

*"MacLachlan has an unabated gift for clean,  
well-honed dialogue that carries its resonant  
meanings with unusual grace."*

*—The Horn Book*


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